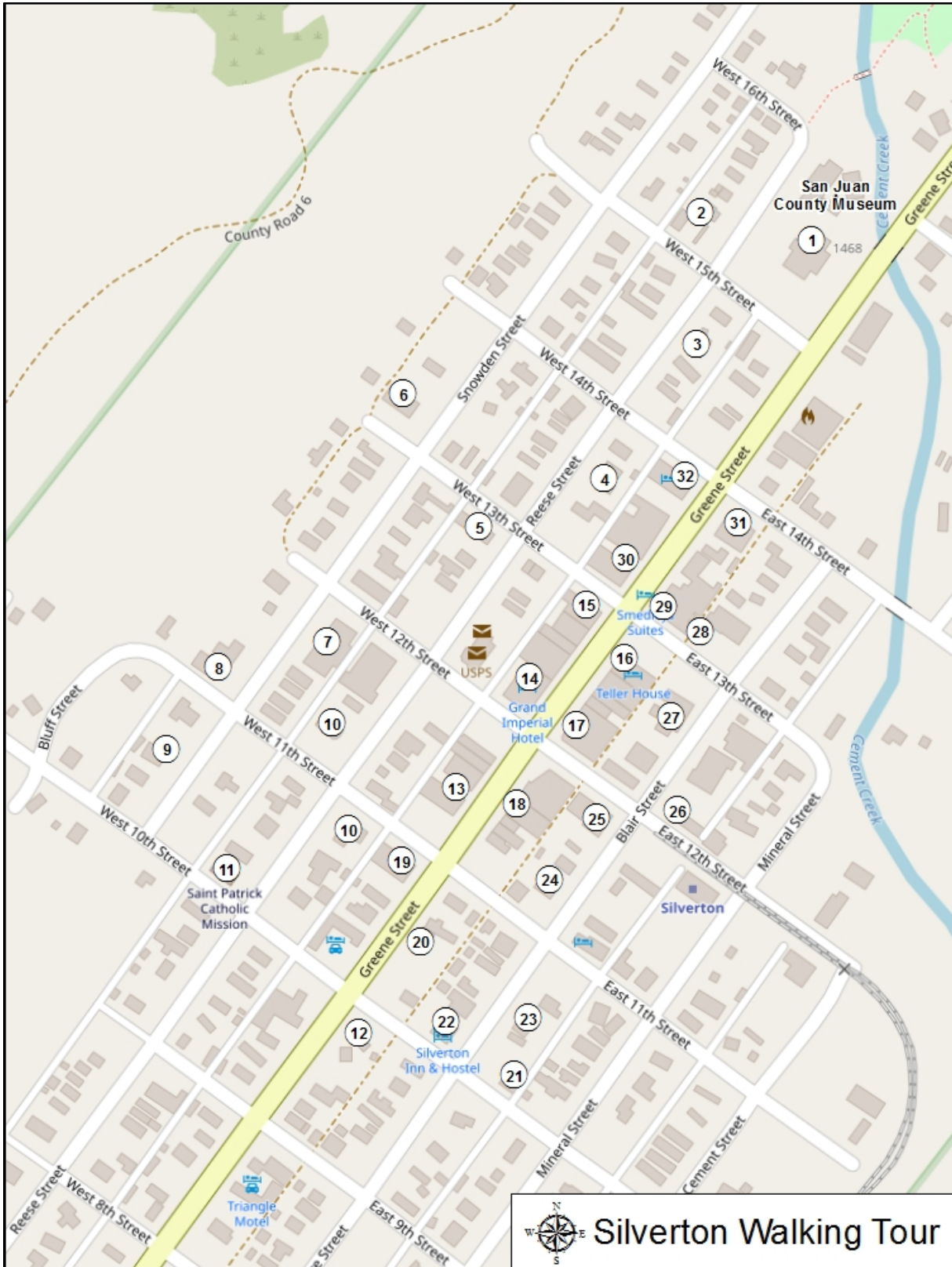




# New Mexico, USA

## Silverton Walking Tour



The following information was obtained from ***Walking Silverton: History, Sights, and Stories*** by Beverly Rich. Photos by Edward Kotyk.

### **1. San Juan County Courthouse**

Built in 1907 at a cost of \$79,000. Colorado state law required that every county was required to have a court house. The county commission implemented a two-year tax levy and by the time the Courthouse was occupied, the courthouse was paid for.



### **2. Queen Anne House on Reese St**

Queen Anne style was the most common Victorian era (Queen Victoria's reign from 1837-1901) style house construction. Majority of the houses in Silverton were built between 1880 and 1910 using the Queen Anne style.



### **3. Greene & Co. House**

Built in 1874 by Ben Harwood and Edward Greene, it is the oldest house remaining in Silverton. This house held three families who operated the Green & Co. mercantile across the street.



### **4. The Cotton House**

Also built in 1874, this was the social center for Silverton 1870s. John and Amanda often provided music and dancing for their friends. Amanda was well know within the community and acquired significant mining properties, real estate, operated hotels and boarding houses along with a vegetable store. She won an award in the 1893 Chicago World's Fair for the best mineral collection.





### **5. Masonic Lodge**

Purchased in 1893 by the Masonic Lodge after their original meeting place had been destroyed by fire. The second floor was leased to the Silverton Men's Club and the lower floor used as apartments.



### **6. Miner's Union Hospital**

Designed by F. E. Edbrooke in Italianate style, this building was built in 1907 at the height of the miner's union. The basement had doctors quarters, first floor wards, and second floor had private rooms and doctors offices. To this day the facility is still used as a health care facility.



### **7. Silverton School**

Built in 1911, this brick structure replaced the original wooden school house which was deemed a fire hazard. To this day the building still functions as the school for Silverton and serves kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



### **8. Church on the Hill**

Built in 1898 as St. John's Episcopal church, it was leased to the schools for overflow classrooms until 1901. The belfry came from an old school house located from the ghost town of Eureka.



### 9. Harris House

This house was designed by a Russian immigrant, Emma Harris, who was born in Odessa Russia to Baronet Von Lassberg Blumenstock, a general in the Russian army. Emma came to America in 1866 and married William Harris a miner. The house was constructed by F.O. Sherwood. Emma, commonly referred to as the Russian Princess, was buried at Hillside Cemetery in one of the most unique grave sites that can still be seen today.



### 10. Silverton Library

Built in 1906 for \$12,000, it was financed by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. A total of 1,689 libraries were constructed by Carnegie in the U.S. from 1883 to 1929. The library still retains much of its original furnishings.



### The Oldest Church

Across the street from the library is Silverton's oldest church. It was constructed in 1881 and the parsonage in 1884. The steeple was added in 1892. The original color of the church was red.



### 11. St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Built in 1905 at a cost of \$9,000, much of the masonry work was done by Irish miners who volunteered to build the church. The parish house next door was built in 1906. The church has undergone some minor renovations since its initial construction.





### 12. Victorian Gem

This Queen Anne style house was the third house designed and built by the Russian Princess, Emma Harris. She sold her first big house in 1890 to Mayor J.W. Wingate and moved into this house. She passed way at the young age of 43 in 1895.



### 13. Silverton Meat and Produce

Built in 1893 by pioneer butcher Fred Hemboldt. Cattle and hogs were shipped to a stock yard near the train depot. Lodging was provided upstairs whereby the Woodsmen of the World resided and later purchased the building. In 1933 it became the San Juan Bar and has remained a bar and restaurant since then. It now is called the Brown Bear Café.



### 14. Grand Hotel

Built in 1882 by Englishman W.S. Thompson, the structure was originally a house with government and private offices upstairs. But in 1883 the owner turned the third floor into hotel rooms and named it the *Grand*. In 1909 it was renamed the *Imperial Hotel* and later in 1950 renamed to the *Grand Imperial*. The second and third floors have rooms with the first floor having the check-in and a café.



### 15. Posey & Wingate Building

Built in 1880, the corner section of the structure housed the First national Bank of Silverton from 1883 to 1934. The building then became a recreational hall with billiard tables and two-lane bowling alley. Now several gift stores reside in the building with residences upstairs.



### 16. French Bakery and Teller House

Built by Charles Fischer, owner of Silverton Brewery, the upper floor was a hotel named for Henry Teller, one of Colorado's first senators. The lower floor had two saloons. In 1916 the building was converted into a grocery and bakery and remained so until the 1970s.



### The Exchange Livery

Adjacent to the Teller House, this structure was built by the Doud Brothers. It was a livery which housed buggies and wagons on the first floor, while horses were stabled on the second floor. Miners could rent a horse for \$2, release the horse from anywhere in town and the horse would make its way back to the Exchange Livery, walk up the ramp to its stall.



### 17. Benson Block

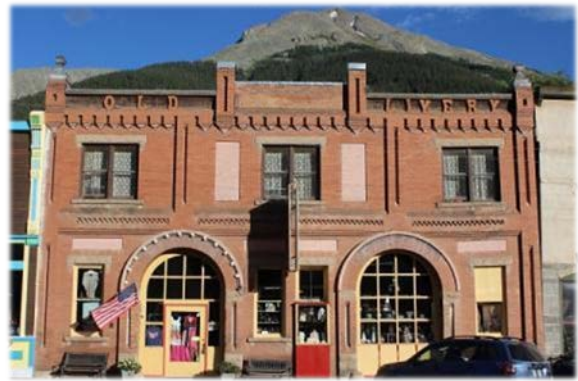
Built by Knute Benson in 1901, the Benson Block building was less ornate and shows a shift in architectural style. The corner served as the County Club (still signed) and was operated by Harold Whitelaw. However within a year, the County Club went out of business and Benson died. Since then the building has served as a hotel, saloons, and one of the town's first garages.





### **18. The Bowman and Melton Livery Stable**

Built in 1897, this was the first structure with an elevator. It was used to lift horses to the second floor while wagons were housed on the first floor.



### **19. Miner's Union Hall**

Miner's donated time and money to build the Hall in 1901. The building was home for several labor and fraternal organizations. The second floor was used as a dance hall for community events. The building is now owned by American Legion.



### **20. Pascoe Opera House**

Now replaced with this classical house, the Pascoe Opera House was once located here. It was Silverton's finest playhouse.



### **21. Alma House**

Constructed in 1902 by Bridget Hughes, this boarding house accommodated many people for years. It was known for good food and hospitality.



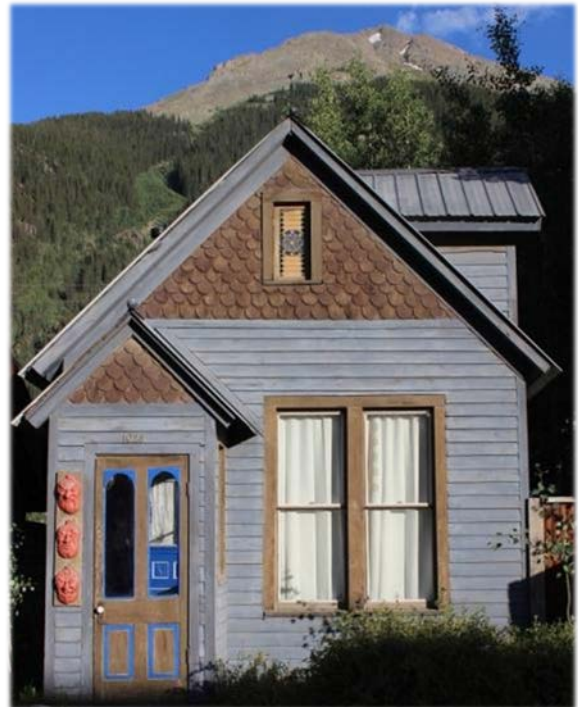
## 22. Sherwood & Son's Avon Hotel

Built in 1904, this building functioned as a grocery store, stove and tin store with rooms for lodging upstairs. The building suffered major fire damage in 1938, repaired and served as a restaurant and bar in the 1970s.



## 23. Shotgun House

This style of house was common in Silverton with its vernacular style, functional and small size it appealed to the working class people. Most were one room wide or shotgun style in floor plan.



## 24. Old Town Square

After World War II the great middle class appeared. The buildings here were brought in from Howardsville to make this western scene for tourists.





### 25. Bordello

Built in 1883 and known as the 557, this is the oldest surviving bordello building on Blair Street. In 1907 Battista and Ottilla Matties opened Matties Place here. It functioned as a dance hall, saloon and gambling establishment. The second floor was a boarding house. Today the building is Natalia's Restaurant.



### 26. The Old Arcade

One of the newest buildings on Blair Street, it was built during the 1929 depression. Known as the Arcade recreation Hall it offered bootleg whiskey and employed sporting woman in the back. In later years it functioned as a poll hall, saloon, and gambling house. It now is a sovereign shop, but still is colored the way it was back in 1929.



### 27. Villa Dallavalle

Built in 1902 by John Dallavalle, it housed a Tyrolean saloon and boarding house. After his dying from pneumonia, his wife Domenica took over the business. She and two of her sons passed away in the 1918 flu epidemic, leaving the building and business to the oldest daughter Mary. She converted the building into a grocery store and operated it until the 1980s.



### 28. Bottle Works

Between 1881 and 1915. Silverton had numerous brewery companies along with bottling companies for beer, wines, fruit ciders, and soda pop. One of the most famous was this building – Standard Bottling Works. It was built in 1901 by Charles Fisher.



### 29. General Store

Built in 1880, this is one of the earliest stone built structures in Silverton. It operated as a the *Sherwin and Houghton General Store* until 1900 when it was converted to the Iron Mountain saloon by Chiono and Giacomelli. After prohibition, it operated as a soda fountain and confectionary store. It is now the Pickle Barrel restaurant.



### 30. W.C. Rodgers Building

Built in 1909 by W.C. Rodgers, the building was a rental which housed a saloon and jewelry shop. In 1911 the building was nearly destroyed by fire, but it was rebuilt and reopened as the Frog Saloon. With prohibition in 1916, the building was converted to a theater which eventually closed in the 1980s.



### 31. Town Hall

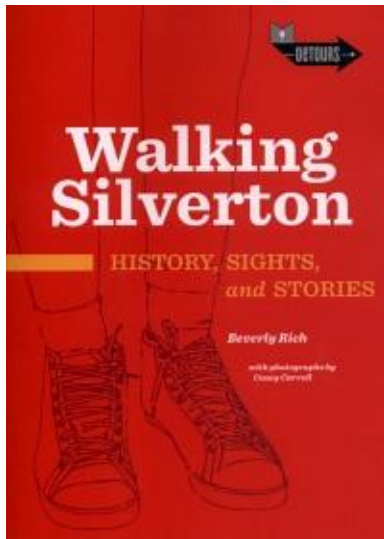
One of three major construction projects in 1908, the construction of town hall was plagued with problems. The first contractor died, the second contractor left, and the third contractor was fired after the columns collapsed. In 1992, the town hall caught fire and the bell tower collapsed. It took 3 years to restore the structure and be brought up to code. Silverton won a national award from the National Trust for Historic Presevation.





### 32. Wyman Building

First making his money with pack animals and transporting goods for the British Army during the Boer War, Wyman turned to real estate and built the Wyman Building at the site of his old freight company on Greene Street. He chiseled the image of a burro for over the doorway to pay respect to the animals that helped make his fortune.



To learn more about the Historic Buildings and people of Silverton, it is highly recommended that you purchase the ***Walking Silverton: History, Sights, and Stories*** by Beverly Rich. The book has far more information about Silverton's historic buildings, history, and the people who made it happen.

The book can be purchased from the San Juan County Historical Society Mining Heritage Center or the Silverton Visitor Center.